

2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Governmental Advisory Committee to the United States Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Environmental Protection Agency		2019	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Governmental Advisory Committee to the United States Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation		1914	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	06/20/2018	06/20/2020	
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority		8c. Actual Term Date
No	E.O. 12915		
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	No	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority Presidential			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
E.O. 12915 and the recent cont. E.O. 13708	05/13/1994	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board			
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this Fiscal Year		
17a. Open Meetings and Dates	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities
No Meetings	0	0	0

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) produced two advice letters with numerous recommendations to EPA on a variety of North American environment and trade policy issues related to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The committee held one meeting in fiscal year 2018. All meetings include public comment sessions and presentations by high ranking officials in the United States Government, senior officials from the CEC Secretariat in Montreal, Canada, and the Chair of the trilateral Joint Public Advisory Committee. This blend of experts and high-ranking officials at meetings engages members in a rigorous dialogue from which to create their advice. During these face to face meetings, the GAC meets jointly with their sister committee, the National Advisory Committee, on the first day and then separately on the second day to develop distinct advice letters commensurate with their sector groupings. In addition, the EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs met in person with representatives of the committees at the CEC 2018 Council Session in Oklahoma City. The main accomplishments of the Committee are summarized below: The committee's October 23, 2017 advice letter contains recommendations on how the Council can engage States, tribal nations and the private sector in North America to share their experiences advancing green growth, North American trade and environmental protection. The U.S. Government (USG) replied to the GAC with a letter on December 1, 2017 addressing their recommendations. First, it "thanked the committees for their comprehensive advice on national associations of public, private and non-profit organizations that have sought, evaluated and published exemplary practices. The USG also "appreciated the thorough analysis and list of exemplary initiatives considered and provided by the GAC... and the timely advice on Youth innovation challenge of the CEC. The committee's May 30, 2018 advice letter contains recommendations on one major topic: the challenge of marine litter and the best management practices being employed by government and industry to address it. The U.S. Government (USG) replied to the GAC with a letter on August 22, 2018 addressing their recommendations. First, it thanked the GAC and agreed with their recommendation on the need to motivate industry and the public to change and create the opportunity to change. Finally, the USG thank the committees for their advice and appreciated the GAC's thoughtful and focused advice

relevant to the CEC's work on marine litter.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As called for in its authorizations, the GAC is comprised of representatives from state, local, and Tribal governments.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The GAC typically meets twice a year to discuss North American environmental issues. The Fall meeting is to discuss the CEC's Draft Operational Plan. The Spring meeting is to advise the EPA Administrator on deliverables for the annual summer Environmental Ministers meeting. In FY 2018, the GAC met once.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The GAC is authorized under Article 18 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and the North American Free Trade Implementation Act, P.L. 103-182, and is directed by Executive Order 12915. The GAC is currently operating under the authority given in Executive Order 13811, dated September 29, 2017.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

No meetings were closed or partially closed during FY 2018

21. Remarks

All members are Tier 1 (parent committee members). There are no Tier 2 (subcommittee) members serving.

Designated Federal Officer

Oscar Carrillo Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Acomb, Patty	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, City Council Member, City of Minnetonka, Minnetonka, MN	Representative Member
Antone, Cornelius	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Environmental Manager, Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells, AZ	Representative Member
Bohrt, Martha	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, City Manager's Fellow, City of Norfolk, Norfolk, VA	Representative Member
Brock, Marina	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Senior Env. Specialist, Dept. of Health & Env., Barnstable County, Barnstable, MA	Representative Member
Gonzales, Sally Ann	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, State Representative, Arizona State Government, Phoenix, AZ	Representative Member
Hanson, Suzanne	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Regional Manager, MN Pollution Control Agency, Duluth, MN	Representative Member
Keenan, Gerald	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Chairman, Illinois Pollution Control Board, Chicago, IL	Representative Member

Mendoza, Edna	10/22/2012	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Director, AZ Dept of Environmental Quality, Tucson, AZ	Representative Member
Nathan, Vincent	10/22/2014	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Assistant Health Director, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, Environmental Safety Division, San Antonio, TX	Representative Member
Sandoval, C. Nazaret	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Environmental Engineer, MI Department of Environmental Quality, Detroit, MI	Representative Member
Striplen, Charles	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Environmental Scientist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Rosa, CA	Representative Member
Viesca-Santos, Cristina	10/22/2012	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Attorney, El Paso County Attorney's Office, El Paso, TX	Representative Member
Wennberg, Jeffrey	10/22/2014	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Commissioner of Public Works, Department of Public Works, Rutland, VT	Representative Member
Wright, Kelly	10/22/2016	10/22/2018	Tier 1, Program Manager, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall, ID	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 14

Narrative Description

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) supports the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment. The work of the GAC supports the EPA Administrator in achieving the goals of safeguarding the natural environment--air, water, and land, via trilateral activities in the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The CEC is a trilateral institution created by the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) and funded by the Governments of the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The GAC provides the EPA Administrator with policy perspectives from state, local and tribal government representatives. Their advice is useful to the U.S. Government as it negotiates the cooperative Operational Plan with Canada and Mexico and prepare for the outcomes of the annual Environment Ministers Council Session. Each year the committee reviews and provides advice on two major CEC products. One is the Operational Plan and secondly is the CEC's Annual Council Session and other topics as directed by the EPA Administrator. The Operational Plan sets tri-lateral priorities for environmental management in North America. The Operational Plan undergoes tri-lateral review on a two-year basis. The committee also plays an important role in helping define the priorities and outcomes of the annual meeting of the Environmental Ministers, known as the Council Session. In fiscal year 2018, the GAC completed two advice letters and 8 recommendations to EPA on a variety of North American environment and trade policy issues related to the CEC. The committee met once in fiscal year 2018. In addition, the EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs met in person with representatives of the committee at the 2018 CEC Council Session in Oklahoma City. The main accomplishments of the Committee are summarized below: The committee's October 23, 2017 advice letter contains recommendations on how the Council can engage States, tribal nations and the private sector in North America to share their experiences advancing green growth, North American trade and environmental protection. The U.S. Government(USG) replied to the

GAC with a letter on December 1, 2017 addressing their recommendations. First, it “thanked the committees for their comprehensive advice on national associations of public, private and non-profit organizations that have sought, evaluated and published exemplary practices. The USG also “appreciated the thorough analysis and list of exemplary initiatives considered and provided by the GAC... and the timely advice on Youth innovation challenge of the CEC. The committee's May 30, 2018 advice letter contains recommendations on one major topic: the challenge of marine litter and the best management practices being employed by government, industry to address it. The U.S. Government (USG) replied to the GAC with a letter on August 22, 2018. addressing their recommendations. First, it thanked the GAC and agreed with their recommendation on the need to motivate industry and the public to change and create the opportunity to change. Finally, the USG thank the committees for their advice and appreciated the GAC's thoughtful and focused advice relevant to the CEC's work on marine litter.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

218

Number of Recommendations Comments

There have been 218 recommendations since the inception of the GAC, including the 8 recommendations in FY 2018. 1) Advice 2017-2: Engaging States, Tribes & Industry in green growth2) Advice 2017-3: Exemplary Green Growth Projects for 2018 Council Session3) Advice 2017-4: Youth Innovation Challenge4) Advice 2018-1: Marine Litter: Motivate the Public5) Advice 2017-2: Marine Litter: Increase Opportunities for the Public6) Advice 2017-3: Marine Litter: Motivate Industry7) Advice 2017-4: Marine Litter: Enable Industry to Change8) Advice 2017-5: Marine Litter: Government Actions

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

See description of accomplishments above. For more detailed information please see U.S. Government Response letters at committee website:
<https://www.epa.gov/faca/nac-gac>.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

See description of accomplishments above. For more detailed information please see U.S. Government Response letters at GAC website: <https://www.epa.gov/faca/nac-gac>.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The committee's recommendations are always in the form of letters. The agency responds with a letter informing the GAC of the status of their advice i.e., whether they have implemented their recommendations or whether the EPA has decided on an alternative direction.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A